

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2001-31-C - ORDER NO. 2001-96  
FEBRUARY 2 , 2001

IN RE: Petition OF ALLTEL Communications, Inc.	)	
for Arbitration Pursuant to Section 252 of the	)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
Telecommunications Act of 1996 Respecting	)	ARBITRATION PLAN
an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth	)	AND SCHEDULE
Telecommunications, Inc.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on a Petition for Arbitration filed by ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("ALLTEL") on January 11, 2001, involving it and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"). Section 252 (b)(4)(C) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires that a state commission hear and rule on a petition for arbitration no later than 9 months after the date on which the local exchange carrier received the request for negotiation. We must therefore hear and rule on this matter on or before May 4, 2001. Accordingly, we will rule on various procedural matters connected with this case in this Order and establish an Arbitration Plan.

The Arbitration Hearing in this Docket shall begin at **11:00 A.M. on Monday, March 19, 2001**, in the Commission Hearing Room.

The Commission hereby orders that twenty-five (25) copies of the testimony and exhibits of ALLTEL shall be prefiled on or before **February 19, 2001**. Further, twenty-five (25) copies of the testimony and exhibits of BellSouth shall be prefiled on or before

**March 5, 2001.** ALLTEL shall prefile any rebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before **March 12, 2001**, and BellSouth shall prefile any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before **March 14, 2001**. It should be noted that acceptance of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is subject to the discretion of the Commission.

The parties shall serve the other parties with copies of all prefiled testimony and exhibits. **Service of testimony and exhibits on the parties and the Commission shall be made by the close of business on the dates herein specified.** If service cannot be accomplished on the dates indicated herein, service may be accomplished by facsimile transmission of the prefiled testimony and exhibits by the close of business on the dates specified with over-night delivery of the testimony and exhibits to follow.

All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during the hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding, and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

Opening statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the beginning of the hearing. Closing statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the conclusion of the hearing.

Direct testimony and exhibits of the parties' witnesses shall be presented to the Arbitrator in a panel format, with all witnesses being sworn in concurrently. Examination of the witnesses shall be conducted by the Arbitrator or its designee. The examination may be directed to specific witnesses or to the entire panel of witnesses. Responses by other witnesses, other than the witness or witnesses to whom the question is directed,

may be allowed at the discretion of the Arbitrator. Under this format, ALLTEL and BellSouth, as well as any participants in this matter, may submit a non-binding list of questions to the Arbitrator (the Commission) by the close of business on **March 12, 2001**. An original and five copies of the non-binding list of questions should be submitted to the Commission, but the non-binding list of questions need not be served on the other party or on participants.

Please note that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)